

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 291950Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL CURACAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2380

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NA

SUBJECT: CHANGE OF LABOR MINISTER

REF: CURACAO 0446

1. ON AUGUST 28, MINISTER OF LABOR RUFUS MCWILLIAM RESIGNED AS MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS. HE WAS SUCCEEDED BY WILSON (QTE PAPA UNQTE) GODETT LEADER OF FRENTE OBRERO DE LIBERACION (FOL). MCWILLIAM SIMULTANEOUSLY RESIGNED HIS CIVIL SERVICE POSITION AND HIS SECRETARY-GENERALSHIP OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S PARTY (NVP-U). HE WILL TAKE A VACATION BEFORE DECIDING ON WHAT TO DO, BUT WILL REMAIN IN CURACAO.

2. GODETT'S ACCESSION TO THE GNA CABINET OPENS THE QUESTION OF NVP-U COOPERATING WITH FRENTE IN THE CURACAO ISLAND GOVERNMENT AND FORCING FRENTE'S PRESENT PARTNER THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PSD) INTO THE OPPOSITION. NVP-U RANK AND FILE HAVE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO COLLABORATE WITH FOL IN THE ISLAND GOVERNMENT. PSD, HAVING PROBLEMS OF ITS OWN OVER COOPERATION WITH FOL WILL PROBABLY SPLIT THE ISLAND GOVERNMENT COALITION.

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3. PRIME MINISTER EVERTSZ MUST NOW MEND HIS FENCES WITH LOWER

RANKING PARTY OFFICIALS WHO ALMOST PRECIPITATED A MAJOR CRISIS IN THE NVP-U OVER THE MCWILLIAM AFFAIR. WHILE IT NEVER CAME TO A SHOWDOWN, BARRIO CAPTAINS EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR MCWILLIAM CONCERNING HIS POSITION ABOUT A TRANSFER TO HOLLAND (REFTEL).

4. COMMENT: IT IS NOW GENERALLY ASSUMED THAT DRS. RICHARD PIETERNELLA, NOW THE GNA REPRESENTATIVE IN THE HAGUE WILL RETURN TO THE NA TO BECOME MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. WITH MCWILLIAM TEMPORARILY OUT OF THE PICTURE, SOMEONE ELSE MUST BE FOUND FOR THAT POSITION. THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO SEND MCWILLIAM, WHO IS A VIABLE RIVAL FOR PARTY LEADERSHIP, TO HOLLAND. THE PRIME MINISTER SALVAGED HIS POSITION BY THREATENING TO RESIGN AND TAKE HEALTH MINISTER LICINDA DA COSTA GOMEZ WITH HIM, THUS SPLITTING THE PARTY, PERHAPS IRREPARABLY, AND PROBABLY FORCING NEW ELECTIONS WHICH THE BARRIO LEADERS DO NOT WANT AT THIS TIME. DEPENDING ON MCWILLIAM'S FUTURE ACTIONS, THE NVP-U MAY HAVE SERIOUS INTERNAL PROBLEMS JUST OVER THE HORIZON.
KREISBERG

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